

[The Boarding House]

LIFE HISTORY?]

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Boarding House Mgr.

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THE BOARDING HOUSE Starting out on an early assignment to get an interview with the city judge, I found when I arrived at his office, that he was at home sick and would not get down for the day. I decided to try someone else. Walking down the street I came to a Mrs. Brittain's large two-story house is painted brown and trimmed in yellow. A sign on the front of the house [read?] [reads:?] [?] "rooms and meals, [very reasonable?]. The This boarding house is near the business part of town, and is convenient for the business people that work and also students. The small yard was small, but clean and had recently been [was?] freshly spaded and a few flowers had been put out. [showed he [?] of [recent?] [? ?]. The front door was open. I [knocked on the screen?] door, and a [A?] tall, slender black - headed girl came to answered my knock on the door. I asked her if she was "May I speak with the manager of the boarding house ?" She said, "No, [[?] ?] " that is that's mother ," she replied . " She is She's in town right now, but will be back in a few minutes . won't you come in and wait for her? " She opened the screen door and I We went through a narrow hall, and in which was the [?] up the long stairway leading to the second floor , We went

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into large as we passed [?] way to the dining room. She pulled placed a rocking chair near the heater, and asked if I would have a seat near the fire [?] , for it was rather cool out , and she was sure I must be chilled. She excused herself, saying that she had to order some things from the store that the cook needed to finish up her the dinner. [C. ? ?] 2 The large room was very clean and attractive. It's Walls were done in a light [creamcolor?], and the woodwork and doors were painted a dark to resemble oak. Freshly laundered Crisply fresh curtains were draped * at the three large windows . [over cream window shades.*] Floor was covered with a linoleum square of dark brown and green , was on the floor and A few pictures were hung around decorated the walls. [?] The long dining table , covered with a fresh clean white cloth, [?] extended almost across the room, and in the center of it, was a vase of artificial sweet peas, that I at first thought were fresh, but I found that they were artificial that was of surprisingly natural appearance . The other furniture concluded of included a large buffet, china closet, frigidaire , and radio. Besides the dining chairs placed around the dining table, there were four large rocking chairs[.?] in this room. A card table, folded up and sitting by the leaning against china closet , and a chinese checker board on the buffet, gave were evidence that the dining room was is also used as a living room part of the time.

A small fox terrier dog came in the room entered and at once came to see if it knew me. As I patted its the dogs head, a large black cat came , in and and jumped in my lap , and wanted a share of the caresses. The cook came in to get some dishes, and seeing the cat and dog, laughed , and said, “Lawsy Missy, “ she said ” you done been 'dopted in dis fambly, “ cause dat black cat sho don't make friends wid every body dat come hyar. “

Mrs. Brittian Brittain came in, at this time. and Her daughter explained that I had been waiting for sometime to see her. Handing her daughter some packages, telling her to give take them to the cook at once. She turned to me and said, “Just let me get off my coat and hat , and I' will I'll be right back. “ As she came back in the dining room without her heavy coat and hat, When she returned, I saw her as a tall, dark headed woman of good figure and medium weight , dressed in a dark crepe [freds?] frock. her long hair [was?]

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long and plaited in two plaits, that was brought around her head in the was dressed in the very latest style, with two [braids ? her head?]. 3 I explained the [purpose?] my visit , and asked her if she would tell me something of her problems in running a boarding house. She laughed heartily, "Well, after sixteen years of it running a boarding house, I still have plenty of problems to face, And everybody else that is in this kind of work has them. But I have I've been able to make a living, and make ends meet, so I guess I have I've done pretty well.

"I was raised reared on a farm, and lived on a farm there until I moved to town long [this?] After my husband died I stayed on at our home, as I owned it our home , and my son was large enough to help me manage my the farm, But when we lived there , he married . Then I moved to town, for I didn't see how I could run a farm by myself. My oldest daughter was also married and my other two girls were too small to help. I also I had my mother to take care of too, and like every one else I came to town.

" The first year that I was in town, The first year after I left the farm, I did practical nursing[. ?] I was busy all the time and of course I didn't make earn anything near like a as much as a graduate nurse. But I did make fifteen dollars \$15 a week and board, and with that I was able to support my mother and two girls. I don't know if you know anything about nursing, but it is it's hard work.

" And I was had to be away from home all the time, day and night, and I hated to leave mother and the children by themselves, and especially at night for my mother was old and her health was very bad. After thinking about everything that I knew how to do , I realized the fact, that I was better at cooking than anything else, and that is when I thought of a boarding house.

"But still I didn't really know anything about that keeping boarders, and to get a little experience in this I worked seven months for a woman who run ran a large boarding house . and when it was time to think of starting my children to school again[,#?] I rented

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a large house and started to taking boarders. I guess I was lucky[,] for I soon had a house full, but even at that, it was a hard pull for I had gone to some expense in getting 4 more furniture and linens than I had to have.

“After getting it started and running very nicely, I got a good cook, and then I went back to nursing . [] and I worked for one of the doctors here for a long time. Of course, it wasn't regular, mostly just his maternity cases. In this way I was able to keep going until I had paid up all my bills. Yes, it was hard, but I have always been used to work, and I had I'd rather work hard any day than sit down and wait for some one else to do for me.

“I stayed there in that place for a little over a year, and then I rented a larger house a little near nearer in town. I was really making good there, and stayed there for about two years in that location. I had a full house all the time , as well as just the ones outsiders that took their meals with me. But even boarding houses are like any other kind of business. Some one is always trying to do [] them you [] outdo you. There's plenty of competition. And this was ture true in my case. I was paying My rent was \$30 a month [] - for rent wasn't as high then as it is now. A woman just below me on the same street was also running a boarding house[.] too She was always wanting to know how I managed so well, and how could I keep my boarders so long, as hers were just coming or going all the time. I worked hard, and I told her that I did most of my own work and that my children also helped when they were out of school. We didn't pay out everything we took in to servants, and our personal work and attention helped to keep satisfied boarders.

“Even at that, she wasn't satsified satisfied and went to told the man I was renting from, told him that she would give him fifteen dollars more \$15 a month more than I was paying. He came to me and told me of her offer, and said that I could stay on if I wanted to pay the extra money. I didn't feel able to do that, so I told him I would I'd just move and she could have the house. I rented this house and have been here ever since.

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"The other woman moved in, took part of my boarders, as I did not have room for all of them /# here. But child, it never pays to try 4 to undermine any one, for in a very short time, she was almost without any boarders at all. My old ones that I left with her had all left gone away. many of them got rooms near enough to [?], so that they could still to enable them to continue take taking their meals [?] with me. It looked like bad luck hit the that poor woman, who got the house from me. and I was really sorry for her, for she just kept going from bad to worse, and few years ago she was so up against it that she drank poison[?] and died before they could get her to a hospital.

"But, let me tell you one thing, I do not have any drinking in my house . Not if I know it. I have had plenty of them to think they could get by with their liquor in my house, but they soon find out that I mean business, for they have to get out, and if they don't get out when I tell them to , get out. Then I show them that I can have them put them out. But I have very little trouble, for in all of my sixteen years, the law has only been in my house three times.

"One of those times I had to call them the [police?] to get a man. I didn't know what was wrong with him, but the police officers knew him and [?] [stat?] said he was a dope fiend. We thought he was crazy and [?] was all all of us were afraid of him . but that is that's the only time I have I've ever had any one like him , and But I hope that I won't ever any more have a dope addict to contend with again.

"One of the greatest problems in this kind of work is keeping dependable good help [,?] that you can depend on. For this is such hard work . they may have some get off in the afternoons off but how they do hate to come early in the mornings. Most of my boarders are all working people, and they have want breakfast [,?] [served?] not later than seven o'clock. My days' work starts around five thirty 5:30 to six 6 in the morning. I usually get the breakfast started before the cook gets here, but she is she's pretty good and it is it's never much after six when she gets here arrives. 5 "We have dinner from 12 to 2, as we have a good many students for meals, and most of them meet here by two o'clock, but when

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they can't she fixes them a their plate plates and puts it them in the warming closet on the stove, for I use a large big old wood burning range. She is then off every afternoon until time to start the supper. She The best proof that she is smart and a good cook, is the fact that boarders all like her and are always giving her something.

"I got sick about 4 four years ago, and was in the hospital from a , for sometime after a major operation . for sometime I had to let my boarders all go then, for it was a long time before I was able to look after the house[.?] and I really started back long before I should have. But because they begged so hard for me to come back . They said they would just do any way for it was just like home here[.?] and they are all very nice to me.

"Oh, yes, I have I've lost money[,?] many, , many times, and in large amounts too. When I have I've tried to help some of them out, especially when if they were out of work , sometimes then they have slipped out owing me a months board and some beat me out of more than that, but for every one that does that way. I usually find some one else that is a good honest payer. " When the overall a certain plant near here[,?] opened up again after it had been closed for sometime awhile the man that came here to run it came to me and made arrangements with me for his meals. Well, I never got any of it a cent for them. But I was not the only one he caught, for he used the [firm's?] money, gave the help bad checks, and /# owed everyone in town that had let him have anything[.?] on credit. Yes, he got out of it some way. I never could understand how. The help finally got their money from the owners, but none of the rest of us were so lucky, for he had nothing for us to get it out of.

"Everyone is not like that, only last Sunday I had four girls in for lunch. I knew the girls, as they eat here quiet quite often. I was busy when they went out, and one of the girls put a bill in my pocket, as 6 she went out, saying that she was paying for all them. It was sometime before I had time to check up for all the lunches, and then I found that she had gave me a five dollar \$5 bill instead of the one \$1 that she owed me. I called her, and told her of the mistake. She had missed the bill, but did not didn't know where she had lost it.

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She sure did thank me and said, 'but if you hadn't called I would never have known how I lost it, for I was sure I gave you a one dollar \$1 bill.'

"I have some boarders that have been with me for seven 7 and eight 8 years , and there are other people that have just been having meals here for that long. I do not don't see much difference in now and when I first started out with a boarding house. I mean in the expenses of it. Somethings are higher, rent for one thing. Of course, groceries go up and down all along. Meats are the same way. I do not don't have a garden, but I get fresh vegetables all the time, mostly from the farmers when I can for having lived on a farm I know how it is for a farmer to get cash for produce.

"I also get a good deal of my meat from them farmers . I like it, for I was used to having [growing?] my own meats at home and it these purchases help me as much as it they does do them for I get it food cheaper and they get the money for other things they need. Then many of these farmers that I trade with send their children to me when they come here enter school here[.?] You know , I appreciate that[,?] for it makes me think they have confidence in me, and I try not to betray that trust.

"I have different rates for my boarders. It is by the day then it My daily rate for board is \$1 is a dollar a day , but the weekly weekly it rate is six dollars, \$6. , and by the month it is twntety five \$25 for the men, twenty \$20 for women and also students. Meals are twenty five cents, 25¢ each and you know I make good on those meals. The other houses around here say they do not see how I can make clear any[-?] thing [profit?] the way I feed but I do.

"Yes, it is it's hard work. You come in contact with all classes of people, both good and bad, but when I get some rough ones in, I get 7 them out[.?] again. I ask them all all my boarders to respect my house as they would their own home. Oh, what class of people had I rather have ? Well, I think the working class of people suit suits me the best. They are more considerate. I guess it is it's because they have to work and know how it is[,?] I

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work too, and then the students that I have are very quiet[.?] but they My boarders are all congenial, and [?] every night they play cards[,?] and checkers[.?] or some just sit around and play the radio , or read and study.

"I keep fires in the diningroom and the livingroom for them, but if they have fires fire in their rooms then they furnish that themselves. I have plenty of hot water all the time. There is one Bathroom upstairs and another downstairs . [too?], and # "I try to make[,?] them all feel at home. They all like to play a jokes on me, and they all like to tease me tease me and play jokes on me , but it is it's all done in a way the friendly friendliest manner. However, " And when if someone gets the best of me, they the others don't like it a bit , but they will they'll tease me[.?] themselves right on. For instance, not long ago just at lunch time when most of them were here [,?] A very nice looking middle-aged man , who said he was a Methodist preacher came here with a young man that he said was his son. and a younger man came in. He said he was a Methodist preacher and the young man was his son. He said they were going to be in town for a few days and wanted a room and meals.

"I happened to have a vacant room[.?] that I showed him . the room. He liked it and said they would they'd take it. Well, they had lunch, came back for supper and was were so friendly and nice that everyone liked them 'em . After sitting around and talking for a while they said they were tired and was were going to their room. And that was the last we saw of them , For instead of going to their room[,?] they left.

"Oh, yes, the boys sure did tease me about that. You see I am a Methodist also too , and they told me that if it that had been a Baptist preacher he would he'd have paid for his meals. " She laughed and said, continued: I told them that if they had been Baptist they would have at least 8 slept part of the night, instead of leaving a good bed like that. But now, I will I'll have to stop and help the my cook get the dinner on the table for these boys of mine are always hungry. I want you to stay and try one of my lunches. "

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I thanked her and said if she didn't mind I would like to very much[.?] for I did not get home for lunch. # The people boarders began coming in, [and?] every one was friendly and had something to say to each other. Several Several girls that who work in the stores came together, and discussed their work and the picture they were going to see that evening. Several [Although?] students came and talked talking about tests they had during the morning[.?], some thought they made it and [falling marks others were not so sure.?] discussing the questions and what they had answered, one of them said, "Well, I sure have flunked that test if you all are right. " They all laughed and told him to do better on the afternoon test. # Another boy [A ? ?] came in and said, "Well, folks, the music man is man's in town." Everyone looked at Mrs. Brittain and laughed. I wondered what the joke was. # Just as fast as one table full group finished eating the table was fixed [?] for the next, and they didn't stop coming until about two o'clock. then plates were fixed for two students that had not been able to get there and then she had sent out come [?] several trays had But [? ? ? ?] there was plenty to eat, most anything that one could ask for, even two different deserts desserts . I never [?] had bought such a lunch for [as little as?] twenty five cents. [25¢.?] As lunch [? ?] was almost over, when a very neatly dressed well groomed old man came in . he was greeted [? ?] by them all, as he asked if he was "Am I too late be for get lunch. [?] Mrs. Brittian Brittain told him she was sure they could find 9 enough some food for him. He then wanted to know about a room. That was matter was fixed also [arranged?] too , as when one of the boys said, "put him in the room with me. We will We'll be all right. " The [old?] man said , that is that's all right with me[.?] for that boy He has been needing a spanking for sometime and that will now I'll have give me a good chance to see that he gets it. "

After they were all gone had all departed , Mrs. Brittian's Brittain's daughter laughed and said, " that is that's the music man. We all like him. He tunes piano pianos for the music houses here, and also teaches music. But We tease mother because he is a widower[.?] and he really wants to get married. That is why we tease mother about him all the time for He seems to like us for he stays with us every time he is he's in town. "

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Mrs. Brittain Brittain laughed and said seemed much amused , “Well,” she began from what a man told me the other night, I will I'll never be able to marry again.” I asked what that could have been. She replied Asked for [her explanation, she continued?] , “I think I told you that I did not didn't allow drinking here. I had a new man that had only been here a few days. and while He knew my rules on that matter[.?] But he thought he would get by and he came in beastly drunk. with it.

“ He came in late, and got in his room without me knowing it [I noticed him when he came in beastly drunk and went to his room very late one night. But after he got in reached his room, he fell stumbled over the chairs[.?] and tables, and then fell out of bed. I heard the other boys laughing , so I and got up I and went upstairs, and I told him the drunkard he would have to get out. He told me that he wasn't # [? was not?] going out of this room ,” I told him he could get his things, and get out or I would have him [He defied me ? ? things and get out right now ? I'll have you put out. [? ? ?] He finally went. left. But when he got to the door he [looked?] at me and respectfully said, ‘It ain't no wonder that you are you're a widow. I don't see how your husband lived [?] eighteen years, if he had to stay with you.’ I told [?] him that if my husband had ever been in the his condition he was in, that he wouldn't have lived that long. 10 “I have had a good many boarders to leave without paying and some have sent it the money back to me. One man left sometime ago. He had been out of work and owed me over a hundred dollars. He got work in another place, and he sends me money every week. I liked like to help people that way for if I think they are the sort that they really appreciate it.

“I do not don't make clear so much [?] profit , but I do make a living, and don't owe anybody. Yet, I have had some awful large bills to pay. # I thought I would never get through paying doctors, and hospital bills[.?] and them [?] I lost my mother[.?] and I had to pay all these bills all the bills connected with her [last?] [?] and funeral, but the Lord has been with me for they are paved paid . # I sent my daughter to Atlanta for a business course. That cost me over three hundred dollars for school and board. My other daughter

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is married and there is just tow two of us at home now. "But [In spite of all my heavy expenses?], I still don't have too little to divide with others. Not so long ago, there was a family near here[,?] that was in awful poor circumstances. The little boy got his arm broke and they were really up against it. I carried them a box of groceries, and when I saw just how badly in need they were I went around to all the neighbors and we all together got them the things they really [needed;?] food, and clothes, as well as coal[,?] and wood . to make them a fire.

" And I even gave away my daughter's best coat. I just couldn't help it. A woman came here, asked for something to eat. It was cold and raining. I gave her something to eat and the coat. Yes, my daughter raved, said I would give away my head, and it wasn't a week until she gave her other coat to a girl that didn't have one. I had to buy her another coat, but I am I'm glad that she can think of other people also. 11 "I have had a hard time. Although we have never been without the things we really needed. I just can't refuse to help others when they need it. Some of them around here, say 'I just don't see how you give so much, and especially when I bought two old women a pair of shoes and to tell the truth I had to have one pair of them charged. But any way I paid for them, and helped two boys out in the country get up some clothes so that they could go to school.

"Then there was the old blind man. He needed an operation on his eyes. The doctors told him that if he could get a place to stay, they would treat his eye eyes and then operate, and not charge him anything. Poor old man, he didn't have anything to pay for a place to stay [food and room?] . Nobody else would take him. So I did, and he stayed here ten weeks. I didn't miss the little he ate. When he got ready to go to the hospital my boarders and I got [ya?] the clothes he needed. Now the old man can see how to walk by himself and doesn't need anyone to wait on him. No, I didn't lose anything by taking care of him. The boarders were awfully nice to him and looked after him at night, and if I wish you could see how happy that old man is for he comes to see us [occasionally?] and we feel well paid for what little we were able to do.

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"I don't feel like I have lost anything in helping people. The Lord has been good to me. I have I've worked yes, but he keeps me able to work and has looked after me so far and I still have confidence in him . and I know he will still help me if I do what I can [? ? ? ? ?].

There is a cotton buyer that takes his meals here. Last week I said something about buying some cotton to fix over some 12 quilts. When he came in to lunch the next day, he brought me a large box of cotton. When I asked how much it was , He wouldn't let me pay for it . said " why couldn't someone do me you a favor one time ?" [he asked and added,?] for I was you are always doing something for someone else. "

"Last Christmas there was a family in this neighborhood, with five children in it. The father was out of work. They had nothing no cash very little to eat, and no prospects of Santa Claus making a visit there. I fixed a box for each of the children. One of my neighbors said, 'Mrs. Brittian Brittain how in the world can you give away so much? I can hardly meet my bills[.?] I don't know why it is, I just can't keep any boarders, and what are here don't pay half of the time. '

"But this neighbor of mine does not doesn't take an interest in her work. She will not fix for her boarders as I do. She will get out for her bridge and other pleasures and let her work go undone. I don't know which is right. She or I. But I just can't find time for much pleasure on the outside. I go to church[,?] sometimes , when I cam am so tired out at night I go to a show . that helps. And I do enjoy visiting , But it is so mighty seldom that I have the time for that For I am I'm busy from the time I get up in the morning until I go to bed at night . [But?] I do all my sewing and that takes quite a bit of time. "I have "I've managed to give all of my children a fair education. The two oldest girls married young, before they went through finished school, and one of them now is doing the very same thing that I y I'm am doing. She lost her husband and she is here in town , running a boarding house to try to get her boy and girl through the 13 university. "

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As we were talking one of her neighbors came in and from the conversation she was also taking in boarders and I wondered as I listened how the woman that I board with judges me; if I am rated as a good boarder or one of the kind that is so much trouble and expects too much for the money. It was my first time to listen to their side of it and I enjoyed it.

The woman [?] said : "Mrs. Brittain Brittain , I never hear you complain about your boarders and I don't see why. Why, mine are never satisfied. [/#?] I can't cook a thing to please 'em, and they are threatening every time they come in to get 'em another [pla?] place to stay. I just get so mad I don't know what to do. Why, they can use more towels, and the laundry bill is tremendous. I just can't stand it. [“?”]

[“?”]And you know they even want me to keep a fire in the living room at night, just so they won't have to buy any coal themselves. It is outrageous. And then they grumble about everything. # Turning to me she said, "Young lady, did you ever have to put up with running a boarding house? * I replied [no,*] that I was am just one of the boarders. " Mrs. Brittain laughed and said, "Well suppose you tell us just what kind of a boarder you are. Do you pay your board without grumbling? Are you hard to please? Does it take a lot of towels for you? "

Looking at the merry twinkle in her dark brown [eye?] eyes , I knew why she was asking / all these questions, and I answered in the same spirit, "Well, as I board with a policeman's family I am afraid not to pay, but as to being a good boarder I am afraid to say. And as to eating, the biggest trouble there is, they think I should eat more than I do, and are always after me about that. I have many extra things are fixed for me to eat tempt my appetite and I'm grateful to my [?] # Mrs. Brittain laughed again, and said, "Well, I should think then that you rate as a good boarder. "

The woman [?] did not stay very long[.?] After that and didn't discuss her boarders any more , and she After when she was gone, "Mrs. Brittain said, "I shouldn't have asked you those questions, but I'm I'm am a pretty good judge of people and you answered just

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as I wanted you to. For she really is hard on her boarders. Yet, we do have to put up with a lot of things to keep boarders satisfied.” [?] “Just a few weeks ago, a man came in here one night wanted for supper and a place to sleep , and he just had fifty cents. I did not have an extra bed. He wanted to know if I couldn't fix him a cot in the hall or any where that I could. [??]. It was cold and raining. I felt sorry for him. I gave him his supper, and fixed a cot in the hall upstairs for him. The boys laughed at me and told me I was too easy. [?] They were right that time, for he slipped out the next morning[,?] taking with with about eight dollars worth of clothes that belonged stolen from to the boys. Yes, he got away and I made the things good, for it was my fault that he was there. The boys didn't want me to pay for the things /They said I couldn't help it, but I felt like it was nothing but right for me to [?] pay them for I was the one that put him there. “

The two boys came in for [?] lunch that was late that had been prepared for them. [They said?] they were “We're hungry, “ and did the cook leave anything for them [“] Mrs. Brittain said replied , “now , you know she did for I think you boys must 15 be her special pets , for she was she's looking out for your plates before any one else [?] eats.” They laughed, and said “Don't you think it pays to stay on the good [?] side of the cook? “ But one said. But “I'll I'll bet you haven't lost any more eggs, “[was the parting shot of the other young man?] As she went to get their plates . [?] While [? ?] one of them said to me[:?]

“Mrs. Brittain is dear old thing and just like a mother to us all. She is She's good to everyone. But we do like to tease her, even if and she is she's a good sport ; and she can take it. But about the eggs; our cook was off sick and sent another cook in her place. The first night after supper, she asked Mrs. Brittain if she couldn't just take her supper home and eat while she rested. Mrs. Brittain said that would be all right, and anxious for the servant everybody to have enough food she went back in the kitchen as the cook was leaving and was going to give her more before she left.

[“?]The cook insisted that she had a plenty, but went to sit the plate down on the cabinet, and when she did, eggs began to roll down her sleeves and hit the floor. She must have

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had at least a half a dozen up her sleeves. She was scared so bad, she didn't wait for her supper. She sold out. Mrs. Brittian Brittain had to scrub the floor and that cook didn't come back.

Mrs. Brittian said [?] , "Look out boys, how you talk to this woman you may get yourself in trouble, " she warned them, "for she is getting writing a story of our boarding house. They asked her what she had told me, and then said, "Oh, well ! Can we tell you a few things about this place? " I assured them that I would be glad for them to to listen . [?] One laughed and said, "Well, he told you about the eggs, I will I'll tell you about the wood.[?] 16 Mrs. Brittian had another cook and she cooks with wood, and having lived on a farm she still buys her wood from the farmers, [and?] keeps a good supply on hand all the time. She was out one afternoon and the when another cook was here , She and that nigger was helping herslef herself to wood. Yes, mam, she loaded up a wagon full. A police [man?] came by and asked her what she was doing. She told him that she worked for Mrs. Brittian Brittain and that she furnished her wood. He didn't know what else to say, but he told Mrs. Brittian Brittain about it and said he had noticed her sending wood out several times.

"Then one time she took a woman and her son in for a couple of days because they didn't have anywhere else to stay. But when they left the room was awfully clean. Yes, mam, it was. even the linen off of the bed was gone. If we didn't have to get back to our class, we could tell more about this place here. Mrs. Brittain is easy in some ways but we sure know better than to come in tight. "

As the [?] two young [men?] went out the door, a small boy apparently between two and three years old came in calling , " Granny !" She smiled and said this is my grandson. [?] He said he wanted to see Granny, 'cause I loves my Granny and her is her's good to me [."?] [then ? like he wanted to know if she had any candy and bananas. [So he was asking, "Got any candy, Granny?" His grandmother smiled, [? ?] finished, "How 'bout a nana?" Before she could [?], His older sister came in then. She said "he cried until we just she had to bring him to see " Granny and Fritie. " she said, As he called Fritie [? ? ? ?] the fox

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terrier Dog came running to him, and jumped all over the little boy. They were both very happy to see each other. Mrs. Brittain gave him some candy and a bananas banana and he went out to play[.?] with the dog. 17 After the children went out, Mrs. Brittan Brittain said, "We run up on many problems in a boarding house. The greatest one is good help. I have a good cook and now. [I?] pay her four dollars \$4 a week , and feed her and her little boy. My laundry bill runs from a dollar a week up , and has been as much as three dollars. Of course that is just for bed linens , and towels[.?] and a wash woman does them and table linens . Our personal things we wash ourselves. Lights and water are reasonable, considering how [?] we use them.

" I furnish lunches to a good many of the business girls get their lunches from us and suppers also too . I can feed so many more than I can keep here, for I do not have the enough room rooms . Of course, I could get a larger and much nicer place farther further out from town, but I don't really think that it would pay for so many of my boarders could not [get?] [go far?] out for their meals. I also feed lots more of the students than you saw today. As many of them do not come for lunch.

"Besides what [??] came to the house, I sent out enough lunches last week to bring in between nine and ten dollars and that is doing pretty good. My daughter has been working some on the doing some of the government work, but they put some of them off lately and as she was one of the last ones to go on, she was put off, but she hopes to get back soon.

About two years ago, a blind boy / stayed here for sometime. Not long ago, he was going walking by here and heard me talking . he recognized my voice and came back to see me. I was really glad to see him for he was a nice boy and I liked him. He was very little trouble [even?] if he was blind, and was never blue about his trouble. 18 "Some people that can pay the are [the?] best able to pay, they are the first ones that will try to beat you out of something. But some others will pay good. I had a man that boarded here for sometime. He got out of work, and had to leave here town . He owed three months board when he

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left , and I did not hear from him for six months ; and then one day I received a money order for every penny that he owed.

“About the same time another man left the same way, owe owing me fifty dollars i [\$50?] but I haven't had a line from him, but that just shows the difference in the two men. One wanted to pay and did pay. The other did not[.?] care . Still I try not to judge too hard for we never know just what the circumstances may [be?].

“I had a crowd of brick layers boarding here. Their board was paid in advance. They knew my rules on drinking, but thought if they paid in advance I couldn't do anything about it. But [I?] just gave them their money back and told them to get out the next day. They begged, but it didn't do any good for that was one time that I was not easy. “I have had a good many to leave owing me board and send every bit of it back and then money that I never hear from any more. But still I find that not all of them are bad. I had one man that married twice while he was boarded with me and he still eats lunch here. He and his [?] first wife separated and got a divorce , several years later , he married again and this time it was a girl that had lunch here every day. He lives too far out to go home for lunch [?] , so he still eats lunch here, and just real often she comes back with him for lunch.

“ The Some traveling men will get you if they can . [They are?] quicker than most anyone else. I had a shoe salesman here. He seemed 19 very nice. He said he only got his check once a month. He stayed here while he worked the other towns near by. The cook was doing his washing. I guess maybe he got his check, I don't know, but the day he said he was to get it, he went out and did not return. He had slipped his clothes out with his samples and the cook and I were just out of luck.

“I had another couple that was staying here with me that [when?] got married. They both got out of work for a long time and got behind in their board. He finally got work in Va. Virginia and asked me if he could go and send my money back. I told him to go ahead .

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and just as soon as he could get to work he sent me every penny that they owed. And they never come through Athens without stoping stopping to see me.

"I have learned many things in running a boarding house. One is that it is very hard work, work that keeps you going from the early morning hours until late at night. One thing I have not been able to learn very well and that is to turn away people that I feel like really needs help.

"But I do now require traveling people and others that I don't rust trust very much to pay in advance for their room. I guess if I had done this long [ago?] that I would saved something. I try to never worry over what has been done [for?] that can't be helped.

"I am thankful that my health is so much better and that I can still run my boarding house for it means my living to me and my daughter, And [I?] only hope that I will I'll be able to continue to work . but I hear the cook in the kitchen. I did not didn't know [?] the time had passed so quickly." 20 Realizing that she wanted to see about her supper, I thanked her for the nice story , and told her how much I enjoyed the lunch , and That I had had a She very pleasant day. As I went out the door, left she came out on the porch with me and said, " It has It's been a pleasure to have you and I hope you you'll come back again. But you really should stay for I see the music man coming. "

(Copied by M.S.E.

Feb. 10, 1939)